

the process for studying and establishing new national heritage areas. This bill could likely go by suspension and enjoy support from Members on both sides of the aisle.

Why we are called to meet on this bill with less than 2 hours' notice that could otherwise go by suspension is beyond me and is indicative of how this majority has run this body for the last 2 years.

H.R. 9640 is a supposed discussion draft, or at least described as such by my colleagues in the majority, but it was introduced today. Not last week, not a month ago, not even yesterday. It was introduced today.

The bill supposedly justifies a legislative purpose required by the Democrats' year-long crusade to weaponize the IRS to punish a political opponent. It requires the release of Presidential tax returns by the IRS and requires audits of returns submitted by such Presidents.

And that supposed discussion? Yesterday, the Ways and Means Committee met and went into executive session to meet on releasing a report on the IRS' mandatory audit program.

During the executive session, Republicans were told repeatedly that the chair would not permit any amendments to be offered on the report. Even though the committee was in executive session for approximately 5 hours, the chair abruptly reversed course and told the Members that amendments would be available about 10 minutes prior to the final vote on making these documents public. This left Members without options to draft and offer amendments with any notice.

Democrats included multiple attachments to this report, one being a discussion draft of the bill we are considering today. Democrat staff told Republican committee staff that no exception on this legislation would be considered before the end of the year. And we learned this supposed discussion draft would be coming to the floor in a statement by Speaker PELOSI.

Of course, as is this leadership's custom, this bill had no hearing and no markup. To put it generously, this process has been a disaster, but it is unfortunate how my colleagues have run this institution.

I would also note that the rule today deems an unvetted and controversial resolution that reaffirms Federal preemption of State laws regarding mail order abortion pills. This has never been mentioned, but it is in this rule. Whether this Federal preemption was ever affirmed is questionable, but whether this resolution actually speaks for the body should be debated on the floor, not snuck in through legislative smoke and mirrors.

Meanwhile, constituents in my district are struggling under the crippling effects of inflation, diesel shortages, an increasingly emboldened regulatory state, and a Democrat majority that continues to focus punishment on their political opponents instead of the needs

of Americans. This is a shameful use of our time, and I look forward to next year.

Madam Speaker, I oppose the rule and ask Members to do the same. I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1715

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I have no requests for time, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

From beginning to end, this Democratic leadership has been in disarray. It is pathetic to see them do anything they can to discuss their favorite former President one last time before losing the majority.

The bills we are debating today have gone through none of the required processes, and Republicans have been given no time to provide input. They have also added things that are highly controversial with no discussion.

This is just the death throes of the Trump-obsessed soon-to-be minority. I oppose this rule, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, as I said previously, S. 1942, the National Heritage Area Act should have been able to pass under suspension. It passed under a UC in the Senate. It is a straightforward bill. But the bottom line is that noncontroversial, bipartisan, bicameral bills that are brought under suspension oftentimes get defeated because my friends on the other side engage in some sort of a tantrum.

We have just witnessed on the floor a series of suspensions that will get overwhelming support when members of their Freedom Caucus are demanding votes where bills will pass unanimously or maybe two contrarians on their side will vote "no." A total waste of time.

So, yes, we are bringing this National Heritage Area Act to the floor under a rule because it is important, and we want to get it passed. That is why we are utilizing this process.

On H.R. 9460, the Presidential Tax Filing and Audit Transparency Act, this is about codifying something that, frankly, we all thought was happening already: the mandatory audit of Presidential taxes.

The President of the United States is the leader of the free world, the most powerful person on this planet. The people of this country deserve to know what is in his or her taxes. If you don't want people to know what is in your taxes, it is simple: Don't run for President.

This isn't about party politics. It isn't about Democrats versus Republicans, and it isn't about Donald Trump. In fact, the only person who would be audited as a result of this bill would be Joe Biden, unless of course, my colleagues plan to use their new

majority to once again try to overturn the 2020 election and reinstate Donald Trump.

This is about upholding the simple idea that no person is above the law and that the American people have a right to know whether or not their leaders are telling the truth on their taxes.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this rule and on the underlying bills.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on adoption of the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. After consultation among the Speaker and the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent, the Chair announces that, when the two Houses meet in joint meeting to hear an address by His Excellency Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of Ukraine, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those immediately to her left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House. Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly enforced. Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor. The cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint meeting by placard will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1913

#### JOINT MEETING TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY, PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

During the recess, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 7 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.